

ATTN: MS. MARY ELLEN CROWLEY

POL REP #1

PCB SPILL, BATH ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS INC (BES)
RICHWOOD, BRAZORIA COUNTY, TEXAS
CHEMICAL SPILL

TXD 065103327

SITUATION:

APPROXIMATELY 3,500 GALLONS OF PCB WASTE OIL SPILLED INTO A ROADSIDE DRAINAGE DITCH FROM 4 SKID TANKS LOCATED ON AN UNDYKED AREA IN THE BES PROPERTY. THE SPILL OCCURRED AS A RESULT OF VANDALISM IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS ON SEPTEMBER 18, 1985. THE WASTE OIL CONTAINED PCBs THAT RANGED FROM 3,480 PPM TO 78,400 PPM. THE PCB OIL CONTAMINATED APPROXIMATELY 50X150 FT AREA ON THE BES PROPERTY AND OVER 600 FT SEGMENT OF THE DRAINAGE DITCH. THE DRAINAGE DITCH FLOWS INTO BAYOU BASTROP ABOUT 600 YDS NORTH OF THE SPILL SITE. THE BES INC WAITING FOR INPUTS EPA IN THE AFTERNOON THE SAME DAY.

TITLE ACTON:

TAT MEMBERS FRANK ONILLION AND RASHID KHALID RESPONDED TO THE PCB SPILL IN THE EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 18, 1985. THE TAT MEMBERS INTERVIEWED BES EXECUTIVES AND LEARNED THAT ROLLINS ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES HAD DYKED BOTH ENDS OF THE ROADSIDE DITCH TO CONTAIN THE PCB OIL WITHIN THE 600 FT SEGMENT OF THE DITCH THAT WAS IMPACTED. ROLLINS HAD ALSO VACUUMED ABOUT 600-800 GALLONS OF PCB OIL FROM THE SPILL AREA AND FROM THE DITCH. AT THAT POINT ROLLINS STOPPED FURTHER CLEANUP OPERATIONS DUE TO LACK OF FINANCIAL GUARANTEE FROM BES INC. THE BES INC DID NOT RENT ANY APPROPRIATE VACUUMING EQUIPMENT DUE TO LACK OF MONETARY ASSETS AS INDICATED BY MR SODERMAN, THE COMPANY'S PRESIDENT. THE OPTION OF USING COMPANY'S OWN EQUIPMENT WAS DISCUSSED BUT WAS DISCARDED DUE TO NONAVAILABILITY OF PERSONAL SAFETY GEAR FOR THE WORKERS AT LATE HOURS IN THE EVENING. ALSO BES WANTED TO WAIT FOR A FINANCIAL COMMITMENT FROM THEIR INSURANCE CARRIER WHICH DID NOT COME THROUGH THAT EVENING. THE CLEANUP WAS DISCONTINUED UNTIL THE NEXT MORNING WHEN THE COMPANY WOULD START VACUUMING THE PCB OIL FROM THE DRAINAGE DITCH USING THEIR OWN RESOURCES. THE PROBABILITY OF RAIN WAS 20 PERCENT FOR THE NIGHT AND 30 PERCENT FOR THE NEXT DAY. THE TAT BRIEFED THE OSC THROUGH SEVERAL PHONE CALLS. ON THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 19, 1985 TAT MEMBER RASHID KHALID ASSISTED THE BES CLEANUP CREW IN STAKING OFF THE IMPACTED DITCH AREA WITH YELLOW TAPE AND PCB CAUTION SIGNS. THE COMPANY STARTED REPAIRING THEIR EQUIPMENT FOR PICKING OIL FROM THE DITCH. ACTUAL VACUUMING STARTED AT 1030 HOURS AND BY 2300 HOURS THEY HAD COLLECTED OVER 5,000 GALLONS OF PCB OIL AND WATER FROM THE DITCH. THIS REPRESENTED ABOUT 1/3 OF THE CONTAMINATED LIQUID. EXCAVATION OF THE CONTAMINATED SOIL AND START THAT DAY. KENNETH COOPER OF EPA HOUSTON OFFICE WAS ALSO PRESENT

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ON THE SITE ALL DAY ASSISTING THE COMPANY IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH INSURANCE CARRIER TO IMMEDIATELY COMMIT FUNDS FOR THE CLEANUP. THE TAT AND MR COOPER OF EPA HAD ADVISED THE COMPANY TO RENT A LARGER VACUUM PUMP AND A STORAGE TANK TRUCK TO EXPEDITE CLEANUP BEFORE A POSSIBLE RAIN COULD TREMENDOUSLY INCREASE THE SCOPE OF CLEANUP. THIS WAS REJECTED BY THE COMPANY BY REASON OF NO MONEY. MS. ELANI GRAY OF TEXAS DEPT OF WATER RESOURCES WAS ALSO PRESENT ON THE SITE FOR A SHORT TIME DOCUMENTING THE SPILL EVENTS. BY EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 19, 1985 THE BES INC OR THE INSURANCE CARRIER HAD NOT MADE ANY SERIOUS EFFORTS TO BEGIN CLEANUP. THE CLEANUP EFFORTS WERE VERY INADEQUATE AND MEAGER. THERE IS A HIGH POTENTIAL OF THE SITUATION GETTING WORSE IF HEAVY RAINFALL OCCURS IN THE NEXT 48 HOURS. THE COMPANY IS REJECTED 7844330A THEIR OWN MONEY FOR THE CLEANUP. THERE ARE SEVERAL COMMERCIAL INSTALLATIONS AND HOUSES SURROUND THE SPILL SITE. LIBERTY NO INPUT THE INSURANCE CARRIER, SENT AN ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT TO EASYLINK ON THE EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 19, 1985 TO ADVISE THEM OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SPILL AND OF THE SCOPE OF CLEANUP OPERATIONS. THE CONSULTANT MET WITH THE COMPANY OFFICIALS, ROLLINS INC. PERSONNEL AND THE TAT. THE CONSULTANT HAS RECOMMENDED TO THE COMPANY THAT THE THE CLEANUP BE IMMEDIATELY STARTED TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT.

PLAN:

BES INC WILL CONTINUE VACUUMING THE CONTAMINATED LIQUID FROM THE DITCH USING THEIR OWN PUMP AND STORAGE TANKS. THE INSURANCE COMPANY WILL MAKE SOME DECISIONS ON THE COMMITMENT OF FUNDS FOR THE CLEANUP ON THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 20, 1985. MS. MARY ELLEN CROWLEY, THE OSC, PLANS TO BE AT THE SPILL SITE ON THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 20,

1985. THE TAT WILL CONTINUE MONITORING THE SITUATION.

OSC-MARY ELLEN CROWLEY

TAT-RASHID KHALID

CASE PENDING

RASHID KHALID/ROOM 116 HOLIDAY INN

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